THE BERLIN PAINTER AND HIS WORLD

Athenian Vase-Painting in the Early Fifth Century B.C.

July 8–October 1, 2017

Characters and Subjects in the Exhibition

#BerlinPainter

Toledo Museum of Art

THE BERLIN PAINTER AND HIS WORLD

The Berlin Painter and His World is an exhibition about one of the ancient world's most significant artists. We know little about the artist's personal life; we do not even know his name. But we know when the artist lived, where and how he worked, and that he experienced seismic events in the history of humanity.

This is an exhibition about a single individual, incredibly accomplished in his craft, who lived through the emergence of democracy, responded to myths of gods and heroes, and developed a style that forever changed the art produced after him. His dramatic painted ceramic vases, often found in hundreds of pieces and painstakingly reconstructed, may be 2,500 years old, but their interrogations of human experience and emotion make them startlingly contemporary and relatable.

The Berlin Painter and His World: Athenian Vase-Painting in the Early Fifth Century B.C. has been organized by the Princeton University Art Museum. Major support for this exhibition has been provided by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Leon Levy Foundation.

ΙΣΝ/SNF ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

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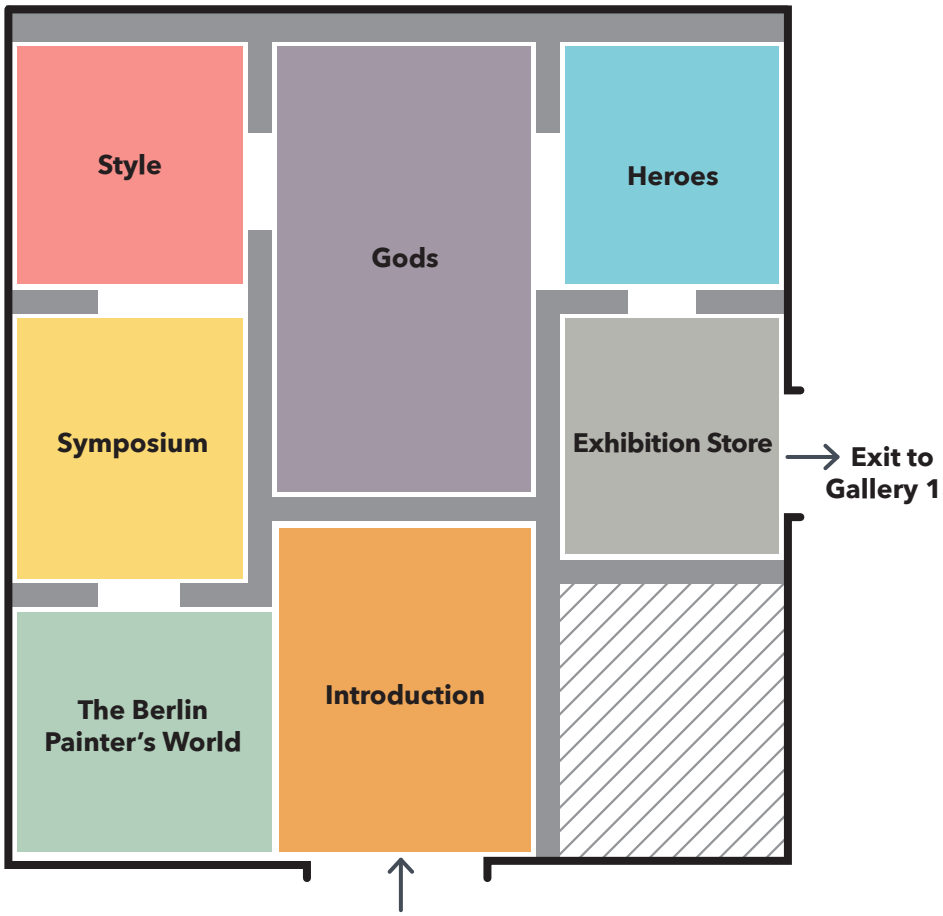
With additional support from our 2017 Exhibition Program Sponsor

PROMEDICA

On the cover: Greek, Attic, Attributed to The Berlin Painter, *Red-Figure Volute-Krater. Side A: Achilles and Memnon; Side B: Achilles and Hektor* (detail). Ceramic, about 490 B.C. British Museum (GR 1848, 0801.1 [E 468])

EXHIBITION MAP



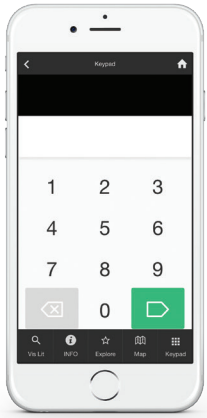
CANADAY GALLERY
Entrance from Libbey Court

Keypad Number

400

TMApp: Exhibition mobile tour

Dive deeper into the exhibition with the Museum's new app, available for download on your device. Select "Explore the Galleries" from the main menu and then "The Berlin Painter and His World," or enter the number found on labels in the exhibition on the app's keypad. Devices are available to borrow from the Information Desk.



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GLOSSARY OF CHARACTERS AND SUBJECTS

Who are the gods, heroes, and mortals depicted on the vases in *The Berlin Painter and His World*? Use this glossary-style guide to identify the tales told by this ancient visual storyteller and his contemporaries.

*In most instances names follow Greek transliteration, rather than Latinized versions (i.e., Herakles instead of Hercules).

**Names and subjects displayed in bold in the definitions have their own glossary definition.

Attributed to the Berlin Painter, Achilles and Hektor from *Red-figure Volute-krater* (detail). The British Museum

▲ ACHILLES Berlin Painter's World, Heroes

Son of King **Peleus** and the immortal sea nymph Thetis. Great warrior of Homer's *Iliad*. Shown in this exhibition: spying on Polyxena, daughter of Priam, King of Troy; battling Ethiopian king Memnon, flanked by Achilles' mother Thetis and Memnon's mother **Eos**; battling Trojan warrior Hektor, who falls back, mortally wounded; battling the **Amazon** Queen, Penthesilea, who falls, speared in the thigh; as a child, brought by his father to the centaur **Cheiron**, who raises him as a warrior. APPEARANCE: Often shown beardless and nude with helmet, shield, and spear.

AEGINA Style

Water nymph, daughter of river god Asopos; abducted by **Zeus** to the island of Oinone, which was then named for her.

AKRISIOS Berlin Painter's World

Mythical king of Argos. An oracle told him that the son of his daughter Danaë would kill him, so he locks her in a tower. The god **Zeus** visits her as a shower of gold; she later gives birth to **Perseus**. Akrisios sets Danaë and infant Perseus adrift on the sea in a wooden chest, the subject shown on a *lekythos* in this exhibition. The oracle's prophecy eventually comes true when Perseus accidentally strikes his grandfather on the head with a discus.

Attributed to the Berlin Painter, *Red-figure Neck-amphora: Amazonomachy with Herakles* (detail). Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig

◀ AMAZONS Style, Heroes

Legendary nation of female warriors; they often fought against the Greeks. In this exhibition: solo Amazon on horseback; Greek hero **Achilles** slaying Amazon queen Penthesilea during the Trojan War; **Herakles** killing Amazon queen Hippolyta to take her belt (one of his 12 Labors). APPEARANCE: Often shown in full armor covering limbs, with "Phrygian" cap (soft, peaked headgear).

AMPHITRITE Gods

Wife of sea god **Poseidon**; one of the Nereids (sea nymphs); on a vessel in this exhibition: shown with other immortals watching **Zeus** depart.

Attributed to the Berlin Painter, *Red-figure Hydria: Apollo Flying Over the Sea on a Winged Tripod* (detail). Vatican Museums

◀ APOLLO Gods

Son of **Zeus** by mortal Leto; god of light, music, and prophecy; associated with the Delphic Oracle. Shown in this exhibition: with his twin sister, Artemis (virgin goddess of the moon and the hunt), pouring a libation (offering) at a flaming altar; as a standing statuette for dedication at a sanctuary; seated on a winged tripod (three-legged stool for ritual purposes), flying over the sea, playing the lyre; in procession with other immortals watching **Zeus** depart. APPEARANCE: Youthful, beardless; usually wearing a *chiton* (tunic); playing the lyre or *kithara* (stringed instruments); carrying a bow and arrows.

ARIADNE Gods

Daughter of King Minos of Crete; granted immortality by **Zeus** after she was abandoned by the hero **Theseus**; shown on a vessel in this exhibition with other immortals watching Zeus depart.

Attributed to the Berlin Painter, Athena from *Red-figure Amphora (Type A)* (detail). Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig

◀ ATHENA Introduction, Berlin Painter's World, Symposium, Style, Gods

Daughter of **Zeus**; famously sprung fully grown and fully armored from his head. Goddess of virginity and of war strategy; patron goddess of Athens (which is named for her). Shown in this exhibition: holding jug *(oinochoe)* for pouring a an offering; flanked by columns topped by roosters (on large amphorae used as prizes for Panathenaic athletic games played in her honor); holding her helmet, next to her protégé **Herakles**, who is pulling Kerberos (3-headed dog) from the Underworld; in procession with other immortals watching Zeus depart; making a ritual wine offering between Hera and **Zeus**, queen and king of the Olympic gods; witnessing infant Herakles strangling serpents in his crib. APPEARANCE: Wearing a helmet, a long *peplos* (loose outer garment) and Aegis (a powerful symbol often interpreted as a cloak with snake tassels), holding a shield and spear.

CHEIRON Heroes

Wisest of the centaurs; he helped to persuade the sea nymph Thetis to accept his grandson **Peleus** as her husband; she later gives birth to **Achilles**. Cheiron raises young Achilles, hero of the *Iliad*, to be a great warrior.

CITHARODE Symposium, Style

Performer who sings and plays a *kithara* (a large stringed instrument, played by plucking the strings with a pick called a *plektron*).

DEMETER Gods

Goddess of agricultural fertility. Shown in the exhibition holding two flaming torches and sending youthful hero **Triptolemos** on a mission to spread grain and agriculture across the world.

Attributed to the Berlin Painter, Dionysos with Thyrsos, Kantharos, and Lion from *Red-figure Neck-amphora with Twisted Handles* (detail). Staatliche Antikensammlungen und Glyptothek, Munich

▲ DIONYSOS Symposium, Style, Gods

Son of **Zeus** and mortal Semele; god of wine and theater. He is usually accompanied by part-goat **satyrs** (lusty woodland deities), and ***maenads*** (wild female followers), as seen in this exhibition. Also shown on a fragment persuading banished Hephaistos, god of the forge, to return to Olympos to free his mother Hera from an enchanted chair. APPEARANCE: Long hair and beard, wearing ivy wreath and long tunic (*chiton*); holding a wine cup and *thyrsos* (staff/wand with ivy and pinecone).

EOS AND TITHONOS Style, Heroes

Winged goddess of the dawn Eos carries off Tithonos, brother of the King of Troy, because of his beauty. From this union, she bears Memnon, King of Ethiopia, who is killed in battle by **Achilles**.

GANYMEDE Symposium

Beautiful male youth abducted by **Zeus** up to Mount Olympos, home of the gods. Shown in the exhibition playing with a hoop and holding a rooster (often a love gift from an older man to a youth).

GIANT/PORPHYRION Gods

Offspring of earth goddess Gaia. The Giants were defeated in a primeval battle with the Olympian gods led by **Zeus**. Porphyrion was King of the Giants.

GORGON Introduction

Race of monsters with snakes for hair and a gaze that turns the beholder to stone. Their queen Medusa was killed and beheaded by the hero **Perseus**. A Gorgon head is the device on goddess **Athena**'s shield.

Attributed to the Berlin Painter, Herakles reclining from *Red-figure Bell-krater* (detail). Musée du Louvre

▲ HERAKLES Introduction, Symposium, Style, Gods, Heroes

The epitome of Greek heroes, renowned for his strength; he is the demigod son of **Zeus**. Depicted in this exhibition: holding a cup to receive **Athena**'s wine offering; reclining with a wine cup, waited on by a **satyr**; fighting Old Man of the Sea **Nereus** to make him divulge the secret route to the monster-guarded Garden of the Hesperides to retrieve its golden apples as one of his 12 Labors; bringing the three-headed dog Kerberos from the Underworld, the final of his 12 Labors; battling the female warriors the **Amazons**; as an infant, strangling serpents sent by Zeus' wife Hera to kill him in his crib. APPEARANCE: Bearded, wearing a lion-skin cloak (the Nemean Lion he killed as one of his 12 Labors), bow and quiver on his back, and carrying a club.

HERMES Introduction, Symposium, Gods, Heroes

Messenger god; son of **Zeus** and a Naiad (water nymph). He is known for trickery and cleverness and invented the lyre. He is usually identified by his winged sandals and helmet and his herald's staff (*kerykeion*) with intertwined snakes.

IRIS Gods

Virgin messenger goddess. She is the personification of the rainbow, which unites earth and heaven. She is the daughter of sea god Thaumas and sea nymph Electra and sister of the Harpies.

KLYTAIMNESTRA Symposium

Wife of King Agamemnon of Mycenae, she becomes the lover of Aigisthos while her husband is away fighting the Trojan War. Aigisthos murders Agamemnon when he returns from the war and takes his throne. Shown in the exhibition being restrained by the herald Talthybios from attacking her son Orestes with an axe as he stabs Aigisthos to avenge his father Agamemnon.

MAENADS Style, Gods

"The frenzied ones," *maenads* are female followers of **Dionysos**, god of wine and fertility. They are usually depicted in religious ecstasy, holding a staff with a pinecone or ivy (*thyrsos*), and are often shown with **satyrs** and/or accompanied by animals.

MENELAOS Gods

The King of Sparta and husband of the beautiful Helen, whose abduction by the Trojan prince Paris sparks the Trojan War. Upon returning from the Siege of Troy, vengeful Menelaos intends to kill his unfaithful wife (though he does not do so). On a neck-amphora in this exhibition, he chases her as she flees toward a sanctuary devoted to **Apollo**.

NEREUS Style, Heroes

The Old Man of the Sea, he is a shape-shifting sea god, kindly to mortals. He is the father, with sea goddess Doris, of the beautiful Nereids (sea nymphs).

◀ NIKE Style, Gods

Winged goddess of victory. She often accompanies **Zeus** and **Athena**, and is frequently shown at an altar, performing libations (offerings) on behalf of the victor.

Attributed to the Berlin Painter, *Red-figure Lekythos: Nike at an Altar* (detail). Harvard Art Museums/Arthur M. Sackler Museum

ORESTES Symposium

Son of King Agamemnon of Mycenae, Orestes avenges his father's death by killing his usurper Aigisthos. As dramatized in the *Oresteia* by the playwright Aischylos, Aigisthos seduces Agamemnon's wife **Klytaimnestra** and slays the Trojan War hero to take his throne.

PELEUS AND THETIS Heroes

Peleus is the hero father of Greek warrior **Achilles**, whom he took to be raised by his father, the wise centaur **Cheiron**. The gods decreed the Nereid (sea nymph) Thetis, daughter of sea god Nereus, as his wife. She was unwilling. A *stamnos* in the exhibition shows Peleus grabbing her around the waist as she appeals for help to her fleeing sisters.

PENTHEUS Gods

King of Thebes, who tried to prevent a festival in celebration of the god **Dionysos** in his kingdom. Dionysos' female followers (***maenads***), driven mad by the god, tear Pentheus apart when they mistake him for a wild beast.

PERSEUS Introduction, Berlin Painter's World

Hero son of **Zeus** and the mortal princess Danaë. Infant Perseus was set adrift on the sea with his mother by his grandfather **Akrisios**, who was hoping to avoid a prophecy that Perseus would kill him. As an adult, he goes armed with messenger god **Hermes**' magic bag, winged sandals, and curved sword, and the helmet of Hades (that makes him invisible), to behead the snake-haired **Gorgon** Medusa.

POSEIDON Style, Gods

God of the sea. Son of the Titans Kronos and Rhea and the brother of **Zeus**. Usually depicted as bearded and carrying a trident.

Attributed to the Berlin Painter, Satyr carrying a wineskin from *Red-figure Neck-amphora with Twised Handles* (detail). Staatliche Antikensammlungen und Glyptothek, Munich

▲ SATYR Introduction, Berlin Painter's World, Symposium, Style, Gods

A lusty, wine-loving woodland spirit. Part of the entourage of the god of wine and fertility **Dionysos**. APPEARANCE: Usually depicted nude and bearded with goat-like ears, a pug nose, and a tail.

THESEUS Symposium

Illegitimate son of King Aegeus of Athens, and hero of many adventures. On a *skyphos* (wine cup) in the exhibition, he is shown twice: with an axe battling Prokrustes, who stretched or cut travelers to fit his iron bed; and fighting the bandit Skiron, who forced travelers to wash his feet then kicked them off a cliff; Theseus pushes him off the cliff instead.

TRIPTOLEMOS Gods

The first priest of the goddess of agriculture **Demeter** and the founder of the town Eleusis. He was sent by Demeter on a winged chariot to spread the cultivation of grain across the world.

Attributed to the Berlin Painter, Zeus with thunderbolt and eagle from *Red-figure Nolan Amphora* (detail). Musée du Louvre

▲ ZEUS Symposium, Style, Gods

The god of the sky and the chief god of the Greek pantheon. He fathered many gods and heroes from willing and unwilling nymphs and mortal women. Shown in this exhibition: courting the beautiful youth **Ganymede**, whom he will abduct to Olympos (home of the gods); pursuing the nymph Aegina; mounting a horse-drawn chariot to depart Olympos, seen off by gods and goddesses; preparing to pour a libation (offering) with **Nike** at an altar; battling a **Giant** (probably Porphyrion); and standing between **Hermes** and **Iris**. APPEARANCE: Usually shown bearded with long hair, wearing a laurel wreath, and carrying a staff. He is sometimes depicted with his attributes the lightning bolt and eagle.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

July 15. Exhibition Tour: Adam Levine, *The Berlin Painter and His World*
2 P.M. | Canaday Gallery | FREE

Adam Levine, TMA Associate Director and Associate Curator of Ancient Art, leads a walkthrough of the exhibition.

Film in the Great Outdoors
9 P.M. | TMA Grounds | FREE

July 21. ***Jason and the Argonauts*** **(1963, 104 minutes)**
August 4. ***The 300 Spartans*** **(1962, 114 minutes)**
August 18. ***Clash of the Titans*** **(1981, 118 minutes)**
September 1. ***Time Bandits*** **(1981, 110 minutes)**

September 8. AIA-Toledo Society Lecture: Alan Shapiro, *The Berlin Painter and the Origins of Portraiture in Greece*
7 P.M. | Little Theater | FREE

Dr. Alan Shapiro, Professor of Classics, Emeritus at Johns Hopkins University and national Archaeological Institute of America lecturer, will discuss the ancient Greek artist known as the *Berlin Painter*.

September 9. Color Wheels Community Bike Ride: *Greek American Festival Ride*
2 P.M. | Glass Pavilion Parkwood Entrance | FREE

After exploring *The Berlin Painter and His World* exhibition (ticketed) at TMA, join this ride, which includes free admission to the annual Greek American Festival in downtown Toledo.

September 16. Lecture: Eftychia Papanikolaou, *When Music is Silent: 'Listening' to the Music of Ancient Greece through Its Pottery*
2 P.M. | Little Theater | FREE

In this multi-sensory presentation, musicologist Eftychia Papanikolaou of Bowling Green State University will discuss the music of ancient Greece through an exploration of the roles, functions, and symbolism of the musical instruments depicted in the work of the Berlin Painter.

September 23. Lecture: Sanchita Balachandran, *CSI (Ceramics Scene Investigation), Ancient Athens: Investigating Greek Potters and Painters*
2 P.M. | Little Theater | FREE

Sanchita Balachandran, Associate Director, Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum, discusses the 2,500-year-old enigma of how ancient Greek potters and painters developed the artistically and technologically superior corpus of objects known as red-figure ceramics.

September 23. Great Performances: Oracle Hysterical, *Hecuba*
8 P.M. | Peristyle | $

Self-described "part band, part book group," the music ensemble Oracle Hysterical will perform their adaptation of *Hecuba*, Euripides' blood-soaked tale of love, loss, murder, revenge, and the Trojan War.

EXHIBITION STORE

Find unique Berlin Painter-themed merchandise in the Exhibition Store, including three hand-blown, limited-edition glass vases inspired by Greek ceramic vessels and created in the Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion Hot Shop by TMA glass artist Alan Iwamura. Also available: The lavishly illustrated *The Berlin Painter and His World* exhibition catalogue, edited by J. Michael Padgett and featuring nine essays by leading scholars; Greek-made ceramic puzzles; and Greek music.

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